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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE will of the late John Foster, of Boston, gives \$120,000 to public purposes, including \$10,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE will of the late Charles Bell, of Springfield, Mass., bequeaths \$7,000 to Wellesley College for a scholarship fund.

BROWN UNIVERSITY receives \$10,000 by the settlement of the will of the late Mrs. Maria L. Benedict, of Providence.

PROFESSOR H. L. HUTCHIN, Dean of the Law Department of the University of Michigan, has been offered the presidency of the University during President Angell's absence in Turkey.

MR. C. H. WARREN has been appointed instructor in mineralogy in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

THE Spanish universities and other educational institutions under state control have just been thrown open to foreigners by royal decree. By the new ordinance foreigners are admitted to the right of matriculation, study and examination in all educational establishments under the Spanish government, and are entitled to take degrees in the universities.

IN announcing last week the promotion of Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard University, it was accidentally stated that his chair was physics; it should, of course, have been history.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### TYPE SPECIMENS IN NATURAL HISTORY.

A RECENT number of SCIENCE\* contains an article by Mr. Charles Schuchert, entitled 'What is a Type in Natural History?' The title is misleading, for, instead of discussing type forms or types of groups, Mr. Schuchert confines his attention to type specimens, and chiefly to the names by which such specimens may be designated, in which direction he shows remarkable fertility of resource. In view of these facts, and of the additional circumstances that the subject is approached from the standpoint of the student of fossils, his paper might have been better described under some such heading as 'Suggestions for the Multiplication of Type Specimens in Paleontology.'

Mr. Schuchert revives several obsolete terms, such as *paratype* and *metatype*, which have never been used, so far as I am aware, even by the man who proposed them, and adds a number of his own invention, such as *genotype*, *holotype*, *hypotype*, *plastotype* and *hypoplastotype*. These may be taken as mild examples of a prevalent and apparently incurable form of mania which busies itself in burdening science with a useless and formidable terminology. The most serious objection to such terms is the discouraging effect they have on students, for they wall in a subject with a barrier that few have the courage to assail. In my own case I am bound to confess that, although the greater part of my life has been spent in the study of animals and plants, I am to-day unable to read half the literature on these subjects, because of the multiplicity of technical terms by which the author's meaning is made unintelligible. Life is too short and too precious to be fritted away in memorizing such a disheartening and ever increasing mass of terminology.

My reasons for replying to the article in question are, first, to make the occasion an excuse for filing a protest against the unlimited coinage of new terms, and second, to assure the amateur and beginner that in descriptive zoology and botany these particular terms are wholly unnecessary. In practice the best systematic

\* SCIENCE, N. S., No. 121, pp. 636-640, April 23, 1897.